



## ALEXANDRIA:

FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 22, 1861.

As this day, the 22d inst., the ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH-DAY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON, will be appropriately celebrated in this place, and will be regarded as a general holiday, in order to allow all employed in this Office to participate with their fellow-citizens in the ceremonies and proceedings of the occasion, and in compliance with the old Alexandria custom of sixty years duration, of showing respect and honor to the Day, this Office will be closed, and no paper issued therefrom to-morrow. Should news of interest be received, it will be published to-morrow, in an extra.

CONGRESS.—The Senate spent the greater portion of yesterday in Executive session. The House of Representatives discussed several matters of interest, but came to a conclusion upon none.

STATE CONVENTION.—In the Convention yesterday, Mr. Wood, of Barbours, offered a series of resolutions declaring the allegiance of the citizens of Virginia was due first to the State, and that any attempt at coercion would be a declaration of war, which were received with favor and referred to the Committee on Federal Relations. The Convention adjourned until Monday.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.—In the Senate, on Wednesday, Mr. Thomas presented a petition from the Pilots on the Potomac for an increase of rates. Resolutions of the Michigan Legislature, in favor of coercion, were read, and directed to be sent back. The bill for the relief of the Banks was further debated. Mr. Douglas offered a joint resolution in response to all the resolutions that have been thrust on the notice of the Legislature in favor of coercion, and pledging men and money for that purpose, which lays over under the rule. In the House of Delegates the bill to incorporate a company to construct a railroad between Washington and Alexandria was passed. The report of Judge Robertson, Commissioner to the seceding States was read, and ordered to be printed. The bill in aid of the Covington and Ohio Railroad was amended, and ordered to its engrossment.

The recurrence of the anniversary of the BIRTH-DAY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON, at a time like this, excites mingled feelings of patriotic pride for the past, and mournful anticipations of the future. It happens when it cannot be celebrated, as it has been for more than half a century, by a united people, and by the citizens of the United States, forming the greatest Republic in the world. We have been accustomed to regard and call the illustrious Chief the "Father of his Country." Proud as we were of him as a Virginian, we felt that, as he labored for all, so all were entitled to share the honor reflected from his illustrious character and services, and that the perpetual Monument of his fame would be the Government which he assisted to establish, the Constitution which he aided in forming, and the Union which he loved so well, and which, dying, "he bequeathed as a rich legacy" to posterity. Alas! that his fondest wishes and hopes should not be realized by those who have come after him—and that they should have been thwarted and destroyed by men who have neither his wisdom, his prudence, his virtue, nor his patriotism!

But, even as it is, we are glad to see that the Day itself is still to be "freshly remembered," and that the love for, and veneration of, his name and principles, are not dead in the hearts of the people, or confined to sectional lines. Let it, in any event, ever be thus! It may be, that in the gloom which overshadows the land, the celebration of this day, the contemplation of his character, the study of the lessons he taught, and the review of his life, and the great end and aim of his work, may shed a ray of light, and turn the minds of his countrymen to better purposes than have been shown in these latter times. God grant that it may be so! Had we obeyed his injunctions—had we followed his advice—had we hearkened to his warnings—had we kept burning upon the altar of Liberty and Union the holy fire which he kindled, and placed there, and guarded, we would not be as we now are!

Mr. Lincoln was, on Wednesday, formally received by the authorities of New York City in the Governor's room at the City Hall. Mayor Wood, in his address, referred to the condition of the country and the responsibility resting upon the President elect, to which Mr. Lincoln responded that "in his devotion to the Union he was behind no man," that in "wisdom he might be deficient, but he had a heart devoted to the work."

In the British Parliament, our troubles, referred to in the Queen's speech, formed the subject of remark in the debate on the motion for the usual address in answer to the speech. All the speakers expressed their deep regret at the position of our affairs, and were unanimous in urging that Great Britain should exert herself in seeking other sources than this country from whence to derive her necessary supply of cotton.

The State Convention has authorized its President to contract with the proprietors of the Richmond Enquirer for reporting and publishing, in full, the proceedings of the Convention.

## NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the times."

In addition to a scarcity of specie the Island of Cuba is suffering also from a scarcity of crops. The Cuba (Havana) Messenger of the 10th thus describes the effect of the drought prevailing there: "We mentioned in our last number that in consequence of the long continued drought throughout the Island it was believed that the new sugar crop would be from 15 to 20 per cent. less than it was estimated to be about ten weeks ago. We now find that this is not the only evil arising from the excessive want of rain, and that the winter crops of corn, potatoes, rice and other vegetables, which are the chief articles of support for our laboring classes, are nearly all destroyed and will yield but a very small proportion of the usual crops."

In St. Louis, Friday night last, a number of citizens had assembled for the purpose of raising a Union pole and flag. A small cannon was borrowed with which to fire the usual salute of thirty-four guns. On the firing of the twenty-eight shot the cannon burst. The fragments flew among the bystanders, inflicting lamentable injuries upon a lad eleven years old, named Gustave Brockman, who had come to the spot to see the sport. He was struck by several of the pieces; one of them actually tore out his eyes. His arm was broken in three places, and his stomach was pierced. He expired in a few minutes. Henry Hughes and John Marse were also seriously injured.

Mr. Raley, tamer of wild horses, and Rev. Dr. Nott, the venerable President of Union College, who has enjoyed a personal experience of fifty-five years in the taming of refractory boys, had an interview in Philadelphia on Saturday. Dr. Nott is now upwards of ninety years of age, and has held the Presidency of Union College for an unintermitted term of nearly fifty-five years. The interview was of about a half hour's duration, during which time the respective parties satisfactorily ascertained that the same principles of forbearance and humanity, coupled with direct appeals to the intelligence, were productive of the same results in the cases of both boys and horses.

The Cuban Messenger, of the 10th inst., gives a despondent account of the increasing scarcity of gold and silver in that island. So scarce is specie there, it states, that the wealthiest merchants cannot obtain the necessary amount for their every day transactions. In Havana, Cardenas and Matanzas commerce is being greatly inconvenienced by the scarcity, which has reached a critical point. The merchants of Cienfuegos have petitioned the Captain General to order that the Custom House at that place shall receive payments one-half in Spanish bank coupons, or the whole amount in bank notes, according to circumstances.

Hon. Thomas J. Judge, the Commissioner of Alabama, who recently visited Washington, to negotiate with the President in reference to the forts, arsenals and custom-houses in the State, and the debt of the United States, has returned home. His mission has been successful. It appears his arrival at Washington was formally announced to the President by Senator C. C. Clay. Mr. Buchanan stated that he could only receive Mr. Judge as "a distinguished citizen of Alabama." This fact was communicated by Mr. Clay to Mr. Judge, who thereupon refused to have an interview with the President except in an official character.

A correspondent relates to the St. Louis Republican a shooting exploit of a Mrs. Ford, wife of Willis Ford, esq., residing near that city, which has gained her much notoriety in the neighborhood. Recently four wild turkeys alighted in her yard, where a flock of tame turkeys were feeding, and at once commenced a war of extermination upon the domestic fowls, which the fair marksman (?) terminated by producing a six-shooter and killing the invaders with four successive shots at ten paces distance.

The Springfield (Mass.) Republican, in its number of the 10th inst., expresses its regret that the committee appointed to consider and report on the propriety of repealing the Massachusetts Personal Liberty bill has determined merely to recommend some modifications in the existing statute. It says: "This tinkering and artful dodging are not creditable. Either let the whole thing be dropped or the useless and obnoxious laws repealed in a straightforward manner."

The Senate has passed the Tariff bill. The bill goes back to the House with numerous amendments. Among those adopted by the Senate was one reducing the duty on sugar and placing a duty on tea and coffee, and another placing a duty of five per cent. ad valorem on wool under eighteen cents per pound. The bill as passed by the Senate retains the warehousing system of the present tariff.

The delegates of the Detroit Trade and Cotton Spinning Convention of Georgia met in Atlanta, on the 13th inst., and adopted a resolution recommending a general attendance of all interested in the commercial, financial, and manufacturing future of the South, at an adjourned meeting of the Convention, to be held at Atlanta, on the 19th day of March.

The Charleston Courier says "that numerous tenders of service in the surgical staff of the State has been received from New York, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Arkansas, Maryland, Virginia, Alabama, Georgia, Florida and North Carolina. Some of the medical gentlemen have volunteered for the position of hospital stewards, rather than serve South Carolina."

At Charleston, S. C., last week the weather was unusually mild. Peach trees were in full bloom, green peas had been in blossom for a week, and strawberries were beginning to form. The Mercury anticipates that about the middle of next month strawberries and green peas will be among the table luxuries supplied to Major Anderson at Fort Sumter.

Mrs. Sarah Vandever has recovered \$2,500 damages from the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for causing, as was alleged, the death of her husband. It appears he was a passenger on the train, in 1857, and being somewhat intoxicated, refused to show his ticket. Arriving at a station, the train stopped, and in putting him out, he fell, from the effects of which he died.

James D. McFadden, of S. C., has sent a donation of \$500 to Gov. Pickens, "to be spent in the service of the State." The Quartermaster-General has invited proposals for making 1,000 uniforms, and estimates for 5,000 pairs of shoes, and as many country-made woolen socks for the South Carolina army.

A colored man, named Richard Bruce, died a few months since in Boston, leaving by his will about \$1,100 for the purchase of one or more of his children in slavery. He was an old man, and having purchased his own freedom, and that of his wife, a few years since, had by industry and economy laid by this sum.

The Minister in London of the republic of Nicaragua has issued a notice stating that the President of the republic and the Legislature will grant extraordinary privileges to cotton planters.

Humphrey Davis has been convicted at St. Louis of the murder of Robert Clifford, and sentenced to fifteen years confinement in the Missouri State prison. Davis is the son of Hon. James Davis, now of Leavenworth, Kansas, but formerly of Fountain county, Indiana, and a candidate for Congress a few years ago.

It has been ascertained that a larger number of war vessels are afloat now than for the last 20 years. Other vessels may be fitted out in three or four weeks. There is, however, a deficiency of lieutenants, midshipmen, masters, and medical officers as well as seamen, the law limiting the last named to 5,500 men.

On the change of administration, March 4, there will be five living ex-Presidents of the United States: Van Buren, Tyler, Fillmore, Pierce and Buchanan. Every one of these retired statesmen favors the plan of compromise known as the Crittenden plan, or something akin to it.

Advices from Havana state that the Spanish war steamer Velasco will soon sail for the United States, with Santer Pacheco and other political exiles from Mexico. The Captain General had given a grand military review to General Miramon.

The decision of the United States Supreme Court in the case of Wiggins against Taylor, confirms the title of Mr. Robert T. Walker to an important interest in the quicksilver mines, called the "New Almaden Mines," in California.

After to-day the President will have the discretion to kill any bill which passes Congress by the pocket veto, as the ten days allowed him by the constitution for consideration will then expire.

The following is part of a special telegram to the Charleston Mercury, dated at Washington: "The only hope now is in the smashing up of the Peace Congress and getting Virginia out."

From our latest dates of the Prensa de Habana we learn that active preparations are making throughout the island of Cuba to provide against any invasion which may be threatened.

Gov. Ramsey, of Minnesota, is spoken of for a place in Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet. He is the architect of his own fortune.

John Schaaf, of the District of Columbia, first Lieut. Second Cavalry U. S. A., has resigned.

It was currently rumored in Charleston on Sunday that Major Anderson was suffering from sickness.

Gen. Wool, who has been seriously ill at Washington of pneumonia, is now better.

## FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The English journals record the death, on the 22nd ult., of Mrs. Catherine Grace Gore, one of the most prolific and popular novelists of the day. She was the widow of Charles Arthur Gore, a military man, and was 61 years old. For more than a year past Mrs. Gore had been almost entirely blind. Mrs. Gore has written from sixty to seventy works, filling nearly two hundred volumes. One of her daughters, who was with her at her death, is married to an English baronet, and her son was one of the officers of the Prince of Wales during his late visit to this country.

The London Times, in reviewing the Emperor's speech, finds nothing whatever that is encouraging. It says the speech gives no reason for the immense increase of the army and navy; no account of the foreign relations of the country, and no assurance of her good understanding with any other country. We seek in vain for the slightest hint of the policy which France is about to pursue. Such a speech cannot, ought not, to reassure any one.

Two thousand merchant vessels, which had been accumulating in the neighborhood of Gibraltar for nearly two months, owing to westerly winds, were liberated by a strong Levante on the 11th of January. The wind had blown from the East at Gibraltar since Nov. 4.

On the 5th inst., Bismarck Palace, Oxford, England, was found to be in flames. The Duchess of Marlborough, family and suite were there at the time. The wing containing the Italian Gallery and the family archives was destroyed. The gallery was entirely destroyed, with the paintings.

It is said that the Prussian general who went to Paris to announce the death of the King of Prussia was so offended by some remarks of the Emperor that he declined to go to the court ball.

There was a great movement of troops throughout France in consequence of the formation of depots for the army of reserve. Reinforcements had sailed for Rome.

## VIRGINIA NEWS.

On Sunday night last, a little mob occurred in front of the new street Chapel, Norfolk. The bell-ringers were a married lady and a single gentleman. The cause of the disturbance was not known, but there was no impression made with a stick on the head of the single gentleman which caused him considerable pain, and he was totally oblivious as to the cause of the assault. The lady was arrested for the assault, and carried before the Mayor, who bound her over to keep the peace.

The Staunton (Virginia) Spectator states that the Virginia Peace Congress was first suggested in that city by a distinguished member of the Virginia judiciary; a gentleman who has not been a politician for thirty years.

The physicians in Lynchburg are engaged busily in vaccinating. There are some eight or ten cases of small pox in the city.

The price of servants in Richmond, has advanced considerably.

Who are the SUBMISSIONISTS?—The term "Submissionists" is being bandied from lip to lip, and is evidently intended as a reproach to persons entertaining certain opinions. Who, then, are the Submissionists? Let us see. The Republicans say to the South: "You have no rights in the Territories—they belong to the North." The Galt States answer: "We submit—take the Territories—we withdraw our claim." The non-seceding States, on the other hand, say: "We have rights in the Territories, and demand their recognition and better security or we will dissolve partnership and insist upon our share of the property in dispute." We submit to no such arrogant claim as that you set up. Which are the submissionists? which is it that flies before the enemy strikes and leaves its baggage behind?—*Richmond Whig.*

INTEGRATION.—On Wednesday the Senate Committee on the Organization of which Mr. Foot is chairman agreed at first to admit persons into the Capitol on the fourth of March, but upon the suggestion of some of the officers of the Capitol that there would be an immense crowd of persons of all characters, and that they would steal and carry away a great many articles of value, the committee thereupon concluded not to admit any into the Capitol on that day. There will be no military display on that occasion, with the exception of the volunteer companies.—Mr. Lincoln will simply be taken to the Capitol and the oath administered. The staging will be erected on Sunday.—*Confederation.*

## VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate, on Wednesday, the bill for the relief of the securities of James R. Courtney of Westmoreland, was received from the House with amendments, and the amendments were concurred in.

A bill was reported to prevent the abuses of the telegraph.

The bill for the relief of Philip D. Lipscomb, Clerk of Prince William county, was rejected.

Mr. H. W. Thomas presented a memorial of the pilots upon the Potomac river, asking an increase in the rates of pilotage.

On motion of Mr. Hubbard, it was Resolved, To inquire into the expediency of repealing so much of section 43 of chapter 20 of the Code of Virginia as exempts officers and privates of volunteer companies from service on juries.

A communication was received from the Executive, transmitting a copy of joint resolutions from the State of Michigan in favor of coercion, and proffering men for that purpose.

The message of Gov. Letcher, accompanying joint resolutions, was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. August, the resolutions were returned to the Governor, with instructions that they be sent back to the State of Michigan without comment.

A communication from the Executive was also read, transmitting a joint resolution adopted by the State of Texas against coercion.

Ordered to be laid on the table and printed.

Also, a communication from Gov. Letcher, transmitting a communication received on the evening of the 18th, from Hon. John Robertson, Commissioner to visit the seceding States, accompanied by sundry documents, numbered from one to nine, inclusive.

These documents embrace the correspondence between the Commissioner and the Governors of South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Douglass then proposed the following joint resolutions, (which, under the rules, lay over one day,) as a response to all the resolutions which have been sent to Virginia in favor of coercion and pledging men and money for that purpose.

Resolved, That the General Assembly of Virginia do not look upon their fellow-citizens of the seceding States, whilst engaged in defending their constitutional rights against the threatened invasion of a dominant political party in the free States, as traitors or rebels, to be slaughtered and subjugated by force.

Resolved, That Virginia, having heretofore declared her purpose to resist the forcible conquest of the seceding States, hereby reiterates that declaration, and will, if the course of Michigan and other non-slaveholding States, as indicated in various resolutions heretofore sent to this body, be adhered to and carried into effect, render her entire military strength to resist all such attempts at coercion, and hereby pledges herself to meet force by force in the effort to maintain the true principles of the Constitution, and uphold the common rights of the slaveholding States.

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be sent by the Governor of this State to the Legislature of Michigan.

Ordered to be printed.

The order of the day being called for, the bill for the relief of the Banks of the Commonwealth was taken up.

Mr. Coghill moved to reconsider the vote by which the 5th section of the bill had been adopted, in order to offer a substitute.

The proposition gave rise to a debate of some length, in which Messrs. Coghill, August, Brannon, and Thomas of Fairfax, participated.

The motion to reconsider was carried, and Mr. Coghill moved to strike out all after the word "and," in the fifth line of the fifth section, which was carried.

Mr. Coghill then proposed to amend by inserting after the word "and" the following: "According to an uniform per centage upon the aggregate amount of capital, circulation and deposits of all the Banks of the Commonwealth on the first day of October next, preceding the requisition."

Mr. Thomas, of Henry, moved to strike out the 4th section of the bill, which repeals the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th sections of the act of 1858.

Pending the discussion of this proposition, a communication was received from the Governor, urging immediate action on the Army bill.

The communication was read, laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

The bill referred to in the Governor's communication was made the order of the day for to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

In the House of Delegates, the following Senate bills were passed: Incorporating the Baltimore and Fredericksburg Steamboat Company; authorizing the issue of proferred stock by the Alexandria, Mount Vernon and Annapolis Turnpike Company.

A bill was reported providing for the voluntary enslavement of free negroes without compensation to the Commonwealth.

A Senate bill entitled an act to amend and reenact the 1st and 2nd sections of an act entitled an act to incorporate a company to construct on the plan of James S. French, a railroad between Alexandria and Washington, passed Feb. 27th, 1854, was taken up, on motion of Mr. Myers, amended, and as amended, read a third time and passed.

A communication was received through the Governor and laid before the House, from Judge John Robertson, late special Commissioner to South Carolina, embodying the correspondence between himself and the Governments of South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama, which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Ward presented the petition of citizens of Frederick county, praying for the passage of a general law, authorizing the erection of work-houses, which was ordered to be referred to the Committee on Courts of Justice.

On motion of Mr. Martin, of Henry, a bill for the partial suspension of the sale of State bonds, and to provide for complying with contracts already made up in the Covington and Ohio Railroad, was taken up and considered.

The pending question thereon was the proposed amendment offered by Mr. McKenzie, which was to strike out the sentence "but no new or additional subscription shall be made to any joint stock company."

Mr. Martin moved to amend in lieu thereof by striking out all the preceding after the enactment clause, embracing the amendment of Mr. McKenzie.

The amendment of Mr. McKenzie being withdrawn, the question returned on the proposition of Mr. Henry to strike out.

A long discussion ensued, in which Messrs. Martin of H., Caperton, Chapman, Anderson, and Christian advocated, and Messrs. Kaufman and Yerby opposed striking out.

## OUR RICHMOND LETTER.

This State Convention, Legislature, &c.

Richmond, Feb. 20.—In the Convention to-day, Mr. Clemens made a personal explanation, denying the charge which had been made against him that he had, under his official frank, sent public documents to free negroes. He stigmatized it as a falsehood of the deepest dye. The circulation of his speech, together with those of Mr. Millson and Mr. Nelson, he had nothing to do with. He had sent copies under his own frank, in pamphlet form, to gentlemen whom he knew, and all others were forgeries.

Mr. Montague said that in his county such documents had been received by free negroes, with the frank of Mr. Clemens upon them. He produced two of the envelopes.

Mr. Clemens examined them, and pronounced them palpable forgeries.

A resolution for the appointment of a select committee to inquire and report as to whether the General Government had, by any recent action within the limits of the State, indicated an inclination to coerce the people, was laid on the table.

The Governor was requested to inform the Convention as to the number of enrolled militia and arms in the State.

A resolution offered by Mr. Montague, calling upon the Virginia Commissioners in Washington to state whether, in their opinion, any result acceptable to this State may be expected from the deliberations of the Peace Conference, was tabled by a vote of 98 to 40.

A large number of resolutions bearing on Federal Relations were offered and referred to the committee on that subject.

The following were offered by Mr. Brent, the member from Alexandria.

Resolved by the people of Virginia in Convention assembled, That we are warmly attached to the Union of these States; that we do not recognize the diversity of our institutions any cause of conflict between different States; but on the contrary we believe the great varieties of soil, of production, and of interest, ground for a more lasting and perfect union.

Resolved, That in times like these, it becomes the duty of every patriot to rise above party or sectional considerations, to make an earnest effort to save the Union, in that spirit of generous compromise in which it was framed. And therefore in the spirit of compromise we are willing to adopt the amendments to the Constitution by Senator Crittenden, or any other plan of conciliation equivalent thereto, which has been, or may be offered by which harmony may be restored between the people of the different States, and the Union perpetuated.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Convention, the employment of the Army and Navy of the United States by the Federal Government to coerce submission of the seceding States will inevitably plunge the country into civil war, and entirely extinguish all hope of a settlement of the issues now pending; we, therefore, earnestly invite the Federal Government, as well as the seceding States, to withhold and stay the arm of military power, and on no pretext whatever to bring on the horrors of civil war, until the people themselves can take such action as our troubles demand.

Mr. Nelson, of Clark, submitted the following:

Resolved, by the Convention of Virginia, That the differences between the slaveholding and non-slaveholding States, can only be settled by the adoption of amendments to the Constitution, and that the interests of both sections of the country imperiously demand that the slavery agitation should be removed now and forever from the halls of Congress.

2. That whilst we hold that the Constitution of the United States makes all the States equal, and gives them all equal rights in the common Territory, yet in view of the fact that ours is a Government founded upon compromise, we are willing to divide said territory by a line on the parallel of 36 deg. 30 min., and that we will insist that in all the territory South of said line of latitude, slavery of the African race shall be recognized as property during the continuance of the Territorial Government—by a constitutional provision, irrevocable, except by the consent of all the slaveholding States.

3. That a like provision should be made to prohibit Congress from interfering with the subject of slavery in any of the States, without the consent of every State—and also to make it the interest of the people of the State to which fugitive slaves escape, to have them delivered to their owners.

4. That if no adjustment of the differences between the States can be effected, it is the duty of American people to provide for a dignified, peaceful and fair separation, upon equitable terms and conditions, and for a proper division of the common property.

Mr. Holme, of Albemarle, offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Convention, no adjustment of the unhappy sectional controversy which now divides the country will give lasting peace or permanent security to the slaveholding States, unless it embraces an amendment of the Constitution which will place in their hands such measure of political power as will enable them to prevent any department of the Federal Government from using its authority, in any form, to the prejudice of their institutions.

The House of Delegates to-day passed the Senate bill to authorize the Alexandria, Mount Vernon and Annapolis Turnpike Company to issue preferred stock, and to legislate on other matters about preferred stock. They also passed Senate bill amending the charter of the Washington and Alexandria Railroad Company, restoring that section of the bill which was struck out, which forbade the control of the road going entirely out of the hands of citizens of Virginia, and forbidding the connection through Alexandria without the consent of the City Council of Alexandria, and gave the Legislature authority to alter, repeal, or modify the charter at its pleasure; they also passed a bill incorporating a company to construct and run a line of steamers from Baltimore to the Rappahannock River and Fredericksburg.

The bill authorizing an issue of \$500,000 Treasury Notes in lieu of that amount of State Stock for the relief of the Chesapeake and Ohio contractors was amended in various particulars and ordered to be engrossed.

In the Senate, the Bank bill was under consideration—the amendment of Mr. Coghill, requiring the Banks to furnish their proportions of specie for the payment of demands upon the State, according to their capital, circulation and deposits, being up when the Senate adjourned.

10 AND JAVA COFFEE.—This day landed from steamer C. C. Alger, a lot of prime Rio and Old Government JAVA COFFEES, for sale by

GRAY, MILLER & CO., cor. of King and Water-sts.

NEW CROP TEAS.—New Crop Teas, both Black and Green, in whole and half chests, for sale by

GRAY, MILLER & CO., cor. of King and Water-sts.

POTOMAC HERRING.—Potomac Herring, in barrels and half barrels, for sale by

GRAY, MILLER & CO., cor. of King and Water-sts.

CLOVERSEED, of prime quality, from the Valley and Ohio, for sale by

J. B. DOUGLASS.

10 HDS. New Crop New Orleans Sugar, part strictly prime, received this day, and for sale by

J. B. DOUGLASS.

SPEECH OF MR. PRESTON, the Commissioner of South Carolina, to the Virginia Convention.

Mr. Preston arose near the President's stand and proceeded to address the Convention. Mr. Preston is a man of large frame, handsome, commanding, and venerable in general appearance. He is apparently about sixty years of age. His face is not exactly full, but possesses a substantial glow of health from the temples to the chin. The features are strong and intellectual, with an expression of benevolence. The voice is rich and resonant, and his manner of speaking is deliberate and eloquent. His hair is thin and straight, of a sandy grey, and his eyes, of a glistering hazel, rather small, but full of expression, and that expression is mild, almost to fascination.

He commenced by referring to the formation of the Confederacy of the States, and explained the object and obligations of the States composing it, in entering into the compact. He then grouped together the facts and principles involved in the action of the State which he had the honor to represent.

He said that as early as 1820 the evident policy of the North was to cut off the territorial expansion of the slave power. It has been the rule of government to derive a large portion of its revenue from imports necessarily the result of the productions of the slave power. This had proceeded from a variety of causes, among which were barrenness of soil and ungeniality of climate in the Northern States, giving rise to the permanent establishment of a system of most oppressive discrimination against the South. They (the people of the Northern States) thus built up their wealth and power at the expense of the sweating giant of the South until they had begun to believe that the giant was intended for no other purpose than their own aggrandizement.

The speaker then entered upon a review of the popular acts and public legislation of the North in regard to the abolition of slavery, recounting the actions of State governments against the enforcement of the laws in regard to the fugitive slave law, and the dangers which attended the attempts of Southern men to recover their own property. The causes of this hostile spirit he reviewed, showing that it was the design of the Northern power to put an end to the controversy which they themselves had excited by the extermination of slavery. The result of the events of the 6th of November, 1860, was a decree of annihilation, and nothing more nor less could be made of it. The State of South Carolina had three hundred thousand whites and four hundred thousand negroes, and upon the latter the former depended for their wealth and comfort; and for twenty millions of people to speak of exterminating them, was devoid of all right, honor and principle. The consequences of the fanatical spirit of the people of the North was about to be consummated, and it was placed in the hands of a few men, who had planned the country into civil war, and was now driving it on to the inevitable destruction of the ungenious and unjust government which they had contributed to form.

He referred to the position of South Carolina. Failing in her effort to unite the Southern heart upon this common object, she had, upon the result of the recent Presidential election, quietly and without ostentation passed an ordinance of secession. It was not that she disdained the co-operation of her sister States that she refrained from pressing on the secession, but that she was satisfied within herself that the time had come when she could no longer be connected with a Union in which she could never be regarded upon an equality with the other States. She had been accused of rashness and precipitancy, but he would ask, is it rash for the traveller to step aside when he hears the crash of the falling avalanche; is it rash to seek for shelter when you see the coming tempest and the flash of death that gleams amidst the storm-cloud; is it rash to raise your hand to protect your hearth?

The speaker then reviewed the